PULPIT SKETCHES.

DR. HOWARD CROSBY, OF THE FOURTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This society was organized in 1825, with the Rev. Matthias Bruen for its first pastor; worshipping first in a schoolhouse at Broadway and Bleecker-st., and afterward in its new church in Bleecker-st. on the site now occupied by the Bank for Savings. Dr. Erskine Mason was the next pastor, and filled a thrifty ministry of twenty years. He was succeeded by Dr. Joel Parker, during whose pastorate, in 1852, the society erected and occupied the present church at Fourth-ave. and Twenty-second-st. In 1863 Dr. Crosby was called to the vacant pulpit, and is therefore to-day one of the oldest ministers in the city in term of service, his official relations with his church having exceeded twenty years. The church is built of a durable brown sandstone. The outlines and features are in the purest, undecorated Gothic. It occupies the northwest corner, fronting on the avenue, and is flanked on the north side by the Sunday-school and lecture rooms, thus imparting an ungraceful breadth to the façade which is hardly corrected by the low, square towers rising with seeming reluctance on either side the main entrance. The interior, compared with later constructions, seems austerely plain. Decoration has been used with a spare hand, and with little traces of churchly aestheticism. There is not a symbol or embellishment bearing a distinctly religious significance anywhere visible. But for the font at the foot of the platform and the large Bible on the pulpit desk the legitimate use of the building might possibly remain a matter of conjecture. Roomy galleries fill three sides, one of which, over the entrance, serves as choir and organ gallery. There are no fascinations or allurements of the arts here to trap the senses and kindle the imagination. The singing, led by an unpretentious quartette, is almost rudimental in its simplicity, and the large congregation join in the plain psalmody with considerable fervor.

FULL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF HIS MISSION.

Dr. Crosby is an old-time parson—not a literateur masquerading in canonicals. Like an ambassador "sent," bearing high commission in the spiritual kingdom, something like a halo of knightly consecration is felt if not seen round about him. There is the hush and awe of a great solemnity welling from within, so that when he stands up to speak we think not of the orator, or polemic, or scholar, or great civilian, but mostly of the man of God, come on his Master's business. The voice is deep, with a clinging, reedy edge which seizes and holds the ear. The words move in mellifluous, orderly, deliberate rhythm as if the respiration and heart-beat were sound and rich with life. His elocution is unconsciously complete and tinctured with life-long refinement and the unmistakable indescence of a delicate, various culture. You say, the man of elegance, the man of affairs, the man of steady, deep thought but, above all, the man of spiritual integrity and whole-heartedness. He handles the Bible only as a Christian scholar comes to finger such a book—with a familiar, caressing reverence. It is a rare treat to hear him read a chapter, as from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles,—to catch his clearly cut, brief, sententious comment, flashing light and intelligence all the way along; now a sudden disclosure of hidden beauty or wealth of meaning in a weakly translated word; now a touch of archaeologic or antiquarian wisdom which helps you to a vignette; again such a pregnant allusion or illustration from the Greek classics as only comes of consummate scholarship; or in the Old Testament, an uncovering and quiet explication of Hebrew roots, metaphors, analysis and interlacing threads of significance, until the old text starts up through the mould and dead leafage of Hebrew, Greek and Latin, into the vernacular,—crisp, fresh, fragrant.

With all this there is a touching simplicity, as if half deprecating any flavor of pedantry, or mere erudition. It is not strange that Bible readers in almost every pew find the chapter and hang on every word: for such words are, as it were, raised from the dead and quickened once more into life. A liturgic feeling here and there crops out. The Doctor reads the Decalogue, and the choir at the close chant a simple Kyrie Eleison. Then one of the Psalms is read responsively, but no Creed is recited, although there is a very good one, commonly called the Apostles', to be found in the Westminster Catechism.

A PREACHER THOROUGHLY IN EARNEST.

The sermon is simple in construction, transparent and unmistakable in purpose, exceedingly forcible, and put with a close, urgent logic impatient of resistance or trifling, and an indifference to academic elegance or rhetorical graces. Such sermons are not produced with an eye to effectiveness. It is questionable whether, in print, they would distinguish the author among his brilliant contemporaries. There is no glamor of a masterly philosophy, no speculative brilliancies of oratory or eloquence; never a trace of sensationalism; and, clearly, the preacher is oblivious to "weep here," and other technical memoranda, in getting up his manuscript. It is written extempore in the spirit of immediate necessity or crisis. So the preacher dashes across the corners, reduces his idioms almost to bluntness—but he is never rude, never gets beyond range of a certain brawny, Doric grandeur of dignity of expression. He is penetrated with the traditions of his church, is resolutely and stoutly conservative in his theology; but it is hard to catch and identify his theology from the realistic, concrete, palpitating body of his discourse. For he proceeds rather after the order of synthesis—builds up, models, embodies all the while—has, in short, little taste or fancy for analysis and the desiccating processes of criticism. There is nothing speculative, ideal or merely philosophical in his conception of life and its depths of loss and gain. He has no pet formulas, no prescriptions of infallible theories among his curatives. There is something inexorable, almost intolerant, in his dealing with sins and sinners. He puts no faith in race-water expedients; is stern, uncompromising, pitiless, toward shams and hypocrisies in the Church as well as out of it. A man who palters with his conscience is a double sense must find this particular church a veritable "Bithe case." But it is a healthy, winnowing, invigorating blast that falls from his lips, and honest, well-ordered, brave living should come of it. Approach him as closely as you find opportunity in church or elsewhere, and you will experience no mortifying disillusions. It is always the same man and personality, without trick, disguise or any such thing.

HIS WARRANT OUTSIDE THE PULPIT.

There is one characteristic of commanding importance in attempting the portraiture of Dr. Crosby. It is this. In preaching, his sermon is only half done. Where other men fold up their manuscripts as an artisan hangs up his tools, Dr. Crosby moves directly on, charging the next line of rifle pits or breastworks of the enemy. For Dr. Crosby's Lord is literally a Man of War. So he burns under the righteous indignation of soldiership, and he carries a sword with a keen edge and smites like Joshua of old, or the Covenanters, or the Roundheads, against "the man of sin" wherever he encounters him. Words are the threshold of his living sermon; for he grapples face to face with evil doers and evil livers, and complements his preaching with his valorous, persistent conflict with social evils and perils. And this desperate spirit of conquest gives initial velocity and penetrative force to his sayings. So to preach against the world, the flesh and the devil, is in Dr. Crosby's conception to fight manfully against them in person. And no man has fought with finer, firmer enthusiasm. With a dozen such pastors,—and what city ever yet held a dozen such at once?—even New-York might experience a moral and social purification and rectification as yet undreamed of by the boldest optimist.

In 1877 he organized the Society for the Prevention of Crime for the trial and punishment of illicit traffic in strong drink, for the suppression of licentious theatres and vile concert saloons, reeking with drunkenness and debauchery, for the vindication and moral reinforcement of municipal legislation, and for the purification of the criminal courts. There has been a costly, unrelenting struggle ever since, and notwithstanding the connivance of officials in high as well as low places, multitudes of shameful resorts have been destroyed, lascivious exhibitions and saloons shut up, and for nine days the dram shops and drinking saloons of the city were absolutely impenetrable and not a glass of spirits was had save at the bars of licensed hotels. To be sure, the deadlock was broken by an unscrupulous Excise Commission which licensed in a twinkling thousand of "hotels" from sixteen feet by three on the sidewalk up to the taunting gin palace; but nevertheless the society has succeeded in locking up at least the front door of every dram shop in the city on Sundays, closing them as effectually as the existing statutes permit.

This is the sequel of Dr. Crosby's sermonizing; a species of "practical application" and "lastly" not set down in any manual of homiletics. Strange conclaves have been held in his parlor, where he has faced the man-sharks of hellish trade in the bodies and souls of men and women. No man in the city is better known in this pernicious under-world—nor more keenly dreaded; and yet, strange to say, he is pursued or impelled by no personal, vindictive animosities—lives in peace, tranquil and without fear. For there is a deep gentleness of love and humanity, which even the vilest cannot mistake, in the Doctor's procedure and language. He would cut out the ulcer to save lives and souls. That is the sum and philosophy of his preaching.

HIS SCHOLARSHIP AND SOCIAL QUALITIES.

Around him centre the best influences and labors for the purification and moral health of this great city, and his counsels are far-seeing and full of practical wisdom. It is impossible to give more than a glance at his fine and thorough scholarship, which ranges chiefly among the classic and Oriental languages—Hebrew, Arabic and Syriac, with some research among the Assyrian cuneiform inscriptions. Twenty years ago, with Dr. Drisler, of Columbia College, he founded the now celebrated Greek Club, which meets every Friday evening, drawing together the ultimate scholarship of the city. For eleven years he served the University of the City of New-York as its Chancellor. Only seven years after being graduated from the same institution he was called to its professorship of Greek, and afterward to the same professorship in Rutgers College. His first pastorate was begun in 1859 in New-Brunswick, New-Jersey, whence he was called to his present charge. Dr. Crosby is of genuine Knickerbocker descent—was born in this city, and comes of a family distinguished for its wealth, public spirit and devotion to the larger charities of the churches. No man has more winning qualities at home or in society. He is now fifty-nine years old, is an incessant worker, producing sermons every week, and is a vigilant parish visitor in his flock of 1,500 communicants. He is of average stature, at once elegant and distinguished in bearing, and his strongly marked features beam with geniality and a scintillant intelligence. In any gathering of men he would be a notable and commanding personage.

ART NEWS AND COMMENTS.

THE WEEK IN ART CIRCLES.

NOTES OF WATER-COLORS AND ETCHINGS—AN EXHIBITION BY MR. GEORGE INNESS—ART NEWS HERE AND ELSEWHERE.

The water-color exhibition has suffered both in sales and attendance through the wretched weather of the past week. Streets like muddy canals, and galleries so dark that on Friday it was necessary to light the gas soon after midday, are conditions far from attractive to intending visitors. Nevertheless the sales up to last night amount to about $8,000 for ninety-five water-colors. Some sixty etchings have found purchasers. Between 1,700 and 1,800 of the catalogues issued by the Water-color Society and 200 of those of the Etching Club have been sold to visitors at the Academy. Among the water-colors disposed of since the last announcement of sales are: "Evening," Samuel Colman, $100; "Retrospection," C. Morgan Mellhenny, $250; "Milly," J. W. Champney, $75; "Gusty Weather," Charles M. Dewey, $50; "Down in Maine," S. P. R. Triscott, $150; "Bruges, Holland," C. A. Platt, $50; "October," Henry Farrer, $50; "Twilight," Henry Farrer, $125; "The Ferry," A. F. Bellows, $200; "Gull Rock," W. T. Richards, $400; "On the River, Antwerp," Samuel Colman, $250, and "The Limits of the Unresting Sea," W. T. Richards, $850.

The illustrated catalogues issued by the Water-Color Society and the Etching Club are up to their usual standard of excellence. The former presents Mr. Volkmar's "Truce" upon the title-page, Mr. Weir's "Sunday Morning" as the first full page illustration, and Mr. Millet's "Cymbal Player" at the head of the list of pictures. Mr. Turner's "Chrysanthemums," Mr. De Thulstrup's "Going the Wedding," Mr. Gregory's "Waiting for Repairs," Mr. Graham's "Indian Camp," Mr. Weldon's "Elopement," Mr. Freer's "Pensive," Mr. Wood's "His First Business Venture," and Mr. James D. Smillie's "Stray Lambs near Montrose, Penn." are among the full page illustrations from drawings made by the artists themselves. The catalogue of the etching club contains etchings by Samuel Colman, Henry Farrer, M. Nimmo Moran, Peter Moran, S. G. McCutcheon, Stephen Parrish, J. D. Smillie, and Kruseman Van Elten.

An ingenious Philistine has reckoned up the catalogue prices of the drawings at the Water-Color Exhibition and finds that the total amount is nearly $73,000. Of course no amount is taken of the many pictures whose prices are not given. In case this collection should be destroyed and suits brought to recover its value, it would be interesting to hear some expert testimony, say from the leading picture dealers of the city, as to the market price of individual pictures and the actual cash value of the entire collection. Not only paper but prices would appear to be watered with a zeal worthy of Wall street. Those who are familiar with our exhibitions are well aware that very often the catalogue prices and the actual selling prices are two distinct things. Artists probably reason that it is better for their reputations, as it is more flattering to their vanity, to attach impressive figures to their works. But the wisdom of this may be questioned. Professional picture-buyers are not apt to accept catalogue prices without question. Every exhibition is attended by many people who are quite willing to buy one or two pictures for their homes at modest prices, and this important class is repelled and probably often deterred from making further inquiries by seeing $200, $400, or $500 set down as the cost of small water-color drawings. It is perfectly natural that artists should be anxious to do justice to themselves in the prices which they place publicly upon their works. But it is worth considering whether an adoption of the "one price" system, and that price as moderate as a reasonable being could expect, would not inure to their advantage.

Mr. George Inness has decided to hold a special exhibition of his paintings at the American Art Gallery opening about April 1. The exhibition will contain about forty pictures, and will include the "Niagara," and "The Old Sketching Ground," a large painting of Mt. Washington, ten feet in length. Aside from the "Niagara," two of the most striking works will be the "Short Cut—Watching Station," and a "Morning." The former is a different treatment of the subject of the picture exhibited with the Society of American Artists last spring. Its first quality is the feeling of lateness, of space and atmosphere which the artist has conveyed, and equally noticeable is the subtlety with which the artist has managed the lights and shades in the perspective. The "Morning," a view of a meadow with trees and water, is an exquisite study of the play of lights through the moist and vaporous atmosphere, seen looking west as the sun is rising. A "Study from Nature," is a large picture in which subdued greens predominate, the composition consisting simply of a hillside with rocks and trees and one or two figures separated by a stone wall from a road overhung with luxuriant foliage. "Evening" is a study of a large opening among the trees with the full moon rising as the sun disappears. Some vivid effects of light are depicted in "Sunset in the Woods," and in a large "Sunrise" in which the fiery disk is seen across a little lake. A study of a meadow with a single figure is characterized by grayish green tones which harmonize throughout. Mr. Inness has held two receptions for artists at his studio in the course of the past week, in order that the "Niagara" might be seen by his brethren before its removal by the purchaser, Mr. Roswell Smith. Since the "press view" of a few weeks ago, Mr. Inness has done no little painting upon this picture. He has changed the tone of the rocky ledge on the left, and it is now unobtrusive and in harmony with the general color scheme. He has softened the dark lines of rock here and there along the falls, and on the Canadian side the modifications and occasional heightening of the coloring makes the rendering of the light upon the rocks through the thinner sheets of water appear in quite a different key. The general effect seems more vivid now than before, and at the same time it is clear that the parts of the picture "hang together" better than when it was first placed on view. It is too often the case that an artist fails to improve a picture by working it over, but in this instance Mr. Inness has fortunately proved an exception. It is well that the public should have an opportunity of seeing this painting; one really entitled to be called a great work; with the other pictures which have been alluded to. In consequence of this special exhibition Mr. Inness will exhibit neither with the Academy nor with the society of American Artists.

The misfortune which overtook Mr. La Farge has not persuaded other workers in the same field that "the decorative business is being overdone." A memorial window for a church in Stamford, Conn., was completed last week by N. H. Egleston, jr., of East Washington-place, and Mr. S. L. Smith, well-known as a designer who has been for some time with Mr. La Farge, has recently left his employ and in company with three others, also for many years with Mr. La Farge, has opened art rooms at No. 22 Clinton-place, devoted to stained glass, interior decoration, and the usual varied forms of decorative art. Mr. Smith is one of the oldest draughtsmen for book illustration, and some of his work is to be seen in the third volume of the recent Longfellow subscription edition and the Michel Angelo issued by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. There seems reason for confidence in a broader field for painters and decorative artists, since many amateurs are beginning to be converted to the belief that good pictures and good decorative work can be obtained at home and that it is no longer necessary for every one to cross the water for paintings or for stained glass.

The seventh annual exhibition of American pictures at the galleries of Mr. James D. Gill, in Springfield, Mass., was opened on Monday last. The collection contains 103 pictures, nearly all by New-York artists. Mr. Gill announces that in his six previous exhibitions his sales have amounted to $70,000, a fact which must prove a great encouragement to the exhibitors.

The Art Director of the New-England Institute states that several large orders for the elaborate art catalogue prepared in connection with the recent exhibition, have been lately received from London and Paris. It is stated also that the price of this catalogue will be $5 after February 15.

An article in *The Indianapolis Journal* upon an exhibition of Frank's autotypes furnishes some surprising bits of information. An allusion is made to "J. F. Millet, one of the greatest living painters," and we are also told that "Troyon and Von Mark, two of the greatest living cattle painters, are represented by autotypes."

An exhibition of paintings by Mr. George Fuller and Mr. William Sartain will be opened to-morrow at the gallery of Messrs. Williams & Everett in Boston. Of the exhibition of Mr. Whistler's etchings *The Boston Traveller* says with delightful enthusiasm: "The enjoyment of these etchings is something almost unprecedented in Boston." Boston must have very few joys.

Mr. D. R. Knight, one of the colony of American artists in Paris, will send to the Salon a painting called "Burning Weeds," a spring scene, with four peasant girls in the foreground, and other figures in the distance at work beneath a gray sky. Mr. Knight was the only American artist who contributed to the Christmas number of *Le Figaro Illustre*. Mr. Henry Mosler will present to the salon jury "A Breton Interior," and "*Les Derniers Sarcements*," the latter depicting a priest and two choir boys leaving a cottage, while a young woman kneels against the wall in an attitude expressive of deep grief.

At the art rooms of H. J. Duveen there is a curious relic, in a complete suit of horse armor, supposed to be the first that has been brought to this country. It was obtained at Brussels and is attributed to the fifteenth century, a date which the construction of the armor would seem to bear out, for it was in that century that the change from chain mail to plate armor was completed, and it was at that time, too, especially under Henry VII. of England, that horse armor reached its greatest perfection. This particular armor is composed of oblong iron plates overlapping each other somewhat like the leather piece of the *bgrnes* or tunics worn by the Anglo-Saxons before the Norman Conquest, and joined together by iron rings admitting of a free play of the different parts. There is the usual long projecting *chanfrent* or *chanfron*, of one large piece, with laciseed ornamentation, to which are added the *manifaire* covering the neck, the *poitrel* for the chest and the *croupier* for the body, but, however, in different parts, but forming an iron blanket, so to speak, of these movable plates, calculated to resist the blow of a sword and even check the thrust of a lance. This armor, which is set up upon a frame, is accompanied by a saddle of the period, and by those enamored of ancient *bric-a-brac* will be found an object of peculiar interest.

The exhibition of the Philadelphia Society of Artist's which will continue until February 23, is pronounced a success. About twenty-five pictures have been sold for between $1,000 and $5,000. There is much bad feeling in Philadelphia over the action of the Directors of the Academy in withholding the $3,000 prize from Mr. Trego, who appears to meet with general sympathy in the suit he proposes to bring for its recovery. Mr. Trego says: "Although it would be premature to state definitely that I have already begun suit against the Directors of the Academy to recover $3,000 which by the terms of their circular should have been given me, yet I have no doubt that such a suit would be successful, and I shall probably begin one without delay."

The importance of establishing the authenticity of paintings is attracting marked attention both in France and England. The suggestion has been made that every French artist should take each picture as soon as finished to the *Maire* or some proper official and obtain a certificate which shall establish the paternity of the work beyond a question. It is also suggested that every picture pronounced a forgery by experts, wherever found, shall be at once destroyed. In London several questions of authorship have arisen in connection with the exhibition of Italian pictures at Burlington House—a somewhat miscellaneous collection which appears enveloped in considerable doubt. *The St. James's Gazette* asks the Royal Academy to devote some attention yearly "to the illustration of some difficult point of art history," for instance by bringing together in one room the twenty or thirty best pictures ascribed to Bellini in English collections or by assembling "all the putative Leonardos and Luinis" within reach. *The Gazette* adds: "England possesses materials for such a systematic exposition that no other country except Italy can boast."

HOME INTERESTS.

PRICES IN THE MARKETS.

MORE ABOUT BIRCH LAKE PICKEREL—SCARCITY OF EGGS—GOOD APPLES A NOVELTY.

A glance over the fish lists shows, among other things, that during the last week the dealers have had a fine supply of shad from North Carolina. This fish is dear to the American heart, for nowhere else can such shad be found as are caught along the Atlantic coast of the United States. Roe shad are selling for $2 50 and the bucks for $1 each. Lobsters have gone up to 15 cents a pound for live ones. Storms and the great demand of the Maine canners are the two reasons given for the rise in price. Of other fish the variety is limitless. Choice specimens like Spanish mackerel cost 37 cents, medium size striped bass sell for 30 cents, white halibut for 22 cents, fresh caught whitefish for 23 cents, and dressed eels, smelts and green pickerel are worth 18 cents a pound.

Mr. Blackford was asked about the Birch Lake pickerel coming to life after being frozen, as was alleged by a fishery firm from that locality. "There have been," said he, "apparently well authenticated statements of frozen fish coming to life when they were thawed out, but I have tried it and never have been able to bring one back to the slightest wiggle. I offered to bet Mr. Clark $500 that pickerel frozen sound in Birch Lake would not come to life when thawed out in this city. He did not take me up. Frozen pickerel never were as good as fresh ones. Hebrews are the best judges of pickerel in the world. They eat scarcely any other kind of fish. A Hebrew will not touch a frozen pickerel. When the heart, blood, nerves and muscles of a fish are frozen up hard it is my opinion that he is beyond this life for good."

Some soft crabs of poor quality, mostly frozen ones, are selling for $1 50 a dozen, while hard crabs bring $3 50 a hundred. Frozen salmon cost 45 cents a pound.

Among the costly novelties displayed by uptown private marketmen are asparagus at $1 a bundle—25 spikes in a bundle—cucumbers 50 cents each, tomatoes $1 25 a quart and peaches $2 each—all from hothouses. Strawberries remain in the neighborhood of $9 a quart. They can seldom be found even at this price. In the downtown markets hothouse cucumbers cost 25 cents each, and tomatoes 50 cents a quart. Boston lettuce brings 10 cents a head. Florida egg-plants are 25 cents each, water cress is 20 cents a quart, spinach 35 cents a half-peck, and an abundance of excellent table celery is displayed at 10 and 15 cents a bunch.

Eggs continue to jump up and down several cents two or three times a week. The price of eggs is ruled entirely by the supply. The majority of the fresh eggs supplied to this city now come from the South. In the summer they come from the West, often as far as California. In the winter, when improper food and cold weather make the American hen cease laying, dealers in Washington Market go to Europe for their eggs. On Friday the price was about 40 cents and yesterday it was 45 cents a dozen. Table butter of good quality costs in Washington Market 35 cents, fine State creamery 40 cents, and butter suitable for cooking purposes 25 and 30 cents a pound. Munster cheese is worth 20 cents, imported Swiss cheese 25 cents, common dairy cheese 13 and 15 cents, and spice cheese 25 cents a pound.

The retail prices of meats remain almost stationary from week to week. Porterhouse steaks sell for 25 and 28 cents, sirloins for 18 and 20 cents, round steaks for 18 cents, and chuck roasts for 12 and 14 cents a pound. Mutton hindquarters are 12 and 14 cents, forequarters 8 and 10 cents, shoulders 7 cents, and chops 16 and 18 cents a pound. Hindquarters of milk veal are 16 and 19 cents, forequarters 12 cents, veal shoulders 12 and 14 cents, cutlets 22 and 25 cents, veal chops 18 and 20 cents, loin 18 cents, and leg 22 cents a pound. Corn-cured hams can be had for 15 cents a pound, shoulders for 8 and 10 cents, bacon for 14 cents, smoked tongues for 16 cents, and salt pork for 12 cents a pound. Sausages bring 13 and 16 cents a pound.

Canvas-back ducks are worth $1 a pair, redheads $1 75, black ducks and mallards $1 25, and blue-winged teal and wood-ducks $1 a pair. Rabbits sell for 40 cents and squirrels 30 cents a pair. About the cheapest things in the scanty game list are tame pigeons at $2 and wild pigeons at $1 50 a dozen. Wild turkey has almost vanished from the market. A few at 30 cents a pound are still on hand however. Tame squabs cost $6 a dozen.

Spring chickens at $1 a pair and capons at 30 cents a pound are the chief features of the poultry world.

Greening apples of poor quality sell for $5 a barrel; baldwins of worse quality at $4. A really good barrel of apples, sound and free from specks, is a curiosity in the downtown markets.

Jams, or what are known to the fancy fruiterer as "shelf-goods," are in great demand at present. A 2-pound can of white cherries or cranberry sauce can be had for 30 cents. Figs in cordial cost 75 cents, peaches 40 cents, and preserved quinces 40 cents a 2-pound can. A 1-pound can of strawberry, raspberry, damson or blackberry jam is worth 20 cents. Spanish marmalade sells for 18 cents a 1-pound can. A 2-pound can of cooked corn beef costs 28 cents, one of boiled ham is sold for 40 cents, and one of boneless pigs' feet 30 cents.

MENU.

Clear Soup.
Fresh Mackerel, broiled. Sauce Tartare.
Roast Turkey. Cranberry Sauce.
Mashed Potato. Egg Plant.
Beef Olives.
Lettuce and Celery Salad.
Cabinet Pudding. Creamy Sauce
Cake.
Fruit.
Coffee.

HOUSEHOLD NOTES.

BEEF OLIVES.—Cut and a half pounds of beef, cut very thin. Trim off the edges and fat; then cut in strips three inches wide and four long; season well with salt and pepper. Chop fine the trimmings and the fat. Add three tablespoonfuls of powdered cracker, one teaspoonful of sage and savory, mixed, one fourth of a teaspoonful of pepper and two teaspoonfuls of salt. Mix very thoroughly and spread on the strips of beef. Roll them up, and tie with twine. When all are done, roll in flour. Fry brown a quarter of a pound of pork. Take it out of the pan and put the olives in. Fry brown and put in a small saucepan that can be tightly covered. To the fat remaining in the pan put one tablespoonful of flour, and stir until perfectly smooth and brown; then pour in gradually nearly a pint and a half of boiling water. Stir for two or three minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper, and pour over the olives. Cover the saucepan and let simmer two hours. Take up at the end of this time and cut the strings with a sharp knife. Place the olives in a row on the dish, and pour the gravy over them.

ARGENTEUIL SOUP.—Boil the trimmings of a roast of beef, with half an onion, a very small bit of red pepper, and an even teaspoonful of salt. Strain, and set away to cool. The next day melt four tablespoonfuls of beef-marrow in a frying-pan, and when it is hot stir in two tablespoonfuls of flour. Stir the mixture until it is smooth and add the hot stock. Just before putting in the tureen add two yolks of eggs beaten light. Serve with very small slices of fried bread.

CRUMBED HADDOCK.—Remove the bones and skin from cold boiled haddock and put them on to boil with half a small onion. Pick the fish into flakes and mix with a pint of fish, one teaspoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of pepper, and one cupful of dry bread crumbs; fill a buttered dish half-full of the mixture, then pour in what remains of your drawn butter, add the rest of the fish, sprinkle crumbs over the top, moisten with the water in which you have boiled the bones, and bake about twenty minutes. It must be more moist than scalloped oysters.

CECILS.—Mince fine one cupful of rare roast beef, add one-fourth cupful of dry bread-crumbs, one-fourth of a small onion, grated, one teaspoonful of chopped parsley, one-fourth teaspoonful of pepper, one teaspoonful of salt; stir in a little good stock and one egg, beaten. The mixture should be as soft as you can handle it. Heat altogether, and when it is cool, mould in the bowl of a spoon into egg-shaped balls, roll in fine crumbs and fry a light brown in hot lard. Make a gravy of one cup of stock, thickened with browned flour, and flavored with one teaspoonful of Halford sauce, and pour over the cecils.

POSTAL TELEGRAPHY.

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO REPRESENTED.

MR. GARRETT'S ASSURANCES THAT THE COMPANY WILL NOT SELL OUT—READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—D. H. Bates, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company; Robert Garrett, president *pro tem.* of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company; J. K. Cowan, Solicitor, and J. G. Pangborn, Assistant General Passenger Agent of the Baltimore road, appeared before the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, to-day, to describe the present condition and the prospective extensions of the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company, and to defend the interests of that company in connection with the postal telegraph measures which the committee has under consideration. Gardiner G. Hubbard, J. C. Roff, of New York, Senator Butler, of South Carolina, and several other gentlemen interested in the subject but not connected either with the committee or the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company, were present and took part in the proceedings. The discussion was conversational in character and incidentally covered nearly the whole field of postal and co-operative telegraphy, historical, legal and economical. The general results may be summarized as follows:

Mr. Bates described the present system of Baltimore and Ohio lines. That company now had telegraph lines extending along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between Washington, Baltimore, New-York, Cincinnati and Chicago. It had within a few weeks purchased new lines from Buffalo to Chicago. Its lines are all new and it was thoroughly equipped over these trunk lines. It had fifteen wires between New-York and Chicago, which was one-half the number of the Western Union wires, and its wires on other routes were about in the same proportion. It was building lines over highways between New-York and Boston to be completed by June 1. It was also building from Chicago to St. Louis by way of Indianapolis, and from Pittsburg to Cleveland, so as to give cross connections in case of interruption. It had just completed arrangements for connection with New-Orleans and Texas. It was the intention of the company to provide the most ample facilities between the points named. An arrangement had also been concluded for the immediate building of lines from Chicago to the Northwest. Within the present year the lines would cover the territory yielding three-quarters of the telegraph business of the country.

PROPOSED REDUCTION IN TAXES.

Senator Hill asked if it was found necessary to pay for rights of way.

Mr. Bates could not answer with regard to the Baltimore and Ohio Company. His experience with other companies enabled him to say that in the earlier times rights of way were not expensive. Now it had come to be a serious matter. It was almost impossible to get through cities and over railroad routes without great concessions and expense. The Baltimore and Ohio had not yet undertaken any reduction of rates, although its night rates were only one-half its day rates, while on the Western Union lines they were two-thirds or three-fourths. The purpose was first to erect a sufficient number of wires to handle a very large business. He believed that A moderate rate would be more remunerative than present high rates. It was in contemplation to reduce to twenty-five cents for ten words east of the Mississippi with one cent for each additional word. In answer to a question he said that the "Nickel Plate" line had now four wires, and the material was being forwarded to erect twelve more. The company had about 25,000 miles of wire and was preparing to put up 15,000 miles more within the present year. It was impossible to say what the average cost per mile had been. The lines of the American Union, covering the same area and aggregating about the same extent of wire, cost a little less than $5,000,000. This did not, however, include any telegraphic patents. The wire mileage of the American Union was between 35,000 and 40,000 miles. The Baltimore and Ohio Company was arranging for ten wires from New-York to Boston, with pole facilities for twelve more wires. That line all told, including municipal rights, would cost from $250,000 to $300,000 for the first six wires. The remaining wires would cost about $100 a mile each. The line from Chicago to St. Paul and Minneapolis, by way of La Crosse, would be built immediately with four wires and with room on the poles for eight more. The line with four wires would cost 50 per cent less than the Boston line, or about $500 a mile.

Mr. Bates, continuing, said he had been connected with several companies in trying to obtain the right of way along lines of railroad under the act of 1866. In no case had he ever succeeded in getting it without the consent of the railroad company. Were there a provision for condemning the necessary property the extension of telegraph lines would be much easier. The difficulty of building along the line of a railroad, just outside of its right of way, chiefly arose from the contracts that railroad companies had entered into not to distribute poles and material for any other company. The majority of the Western Union contracts were of this character.

MR. GARRETT READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Garrett said the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company had already expended very large sums in the acquisition of lines and in the purchase of materials for extension. The present time was advantageous for such purchases and large amounts of money had been paid out within two weeks. It became, consequently, a matter of grave concern to the company to know something of the sentiments and purposes of the committee. What could the company do to convince the committee of its good faith? It might refer to the past history of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. That company had years ago established its own express system, which was in operation to-day to the satisfaction, he believed, of its patrons and certainly to that of the company. It had some years since thrown the Pullman Car Company off from its lines of road and was maintaining (despite early predictions to the contrary) its own system of sleeping cars. It had now determined to throw the Western Union Telegraph off from its line of roads. Suppose, in case the Government should determine to build or operate a system of telegraph lines, that the Baltimore and Ohio Company would agree to turn over its lines say at cost, being properly remunerated for its rights of way. He would say that the Baltimore and Ohio Company was prepared to-day to enter into a contract with the Post Office Department to transact the business of the public upon some plan which would be satisfactory to the public and profitable to the company. The company believed that with an expenditure of $3,000,000 it would be able to cover an area of territory from which the Western Union derived seventy-five per cent of its revenue. He suggested that the matter be opened up to competition.

Senator Wilson asked what assurance could be given, in case the committee was unable to reach a conclusion on the matter, that at some not very distant day the Baltimore and Ohio Company would not enter into a pooling arrangement with the Western Union Company.

Mr. Garrett said he could only point to the history of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company in the past. In turn, he asked how the telegraph company could satisfy the committee on the point. He also specified that the rates would be maintained at a tariff satisfactory to the public.

Senator Hill said he had a great respect for the Baltimore and Ohio Company and its management, but the motives of its managers were the same as those of the managers of other corporations—to make money. However it could be made certain that more could be gained by consolidation, the consolidation would inevitably take place. Combination paid better than competition.

Mr. Garrett said that the Baltimore and Ohio people had a theory that by serving the public well, by building its lines for cash, and by transacting its business at reasonable rates, greater earnings might be made for its shareholders than in any other way. It believed the day for consolidation had passed. The Baltimore and Ohio Company was compelled to maintain a system of telegraph lines for the transaction of its railroad business. The only incentive for going into the telegraph business was in the fact that it had a large plant already, and by supplementing the system increased profits would accrue. Now the company encountered this demand that the Government should enter into the business. The company had made contracts and expended its money, and wished to know the views of the committee as to how it could be satisfied that the company was in earnest.

NOT DISPOSED TO SELL OUT TO THE WESTERN UNION.

Senator Hill said there would come a time when the Western Union Company would offer the Baltimore and Ohio Company four or five times as much for its lines as they had cost. What guarantee could be given that the company would not sell?

Mr. Garrett said the company had no objection to giving any guarantee that could be devised.

Senator Wilson asked if, in the progress of the inquiry, the committee should be able with the aid of experts to determine what would be fair average rates considering the interests of the company and the public, the company would accept such rates.

Mr. Garrett said the company's inclination would be to accept any reasonable rates fixed by any practical commission. Its managers thought that the amount of cash it would be called upon to expend to reach certain points would enable it to establish rates which, while yielding a fair return, would be satisfactory to the public.

Senator Wilson asked how it was proposed to make rates so much lower than the old established companies which had made their business so profitable.

Mr. Garrett replied that it was expected that, by an expenditure of $3,000,000 cash with co-operative contracts and with the lines already existing of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, competition could be made successful against a company which had made a nominal expenditure so great as that of the Western Union returns to its stockholders.

Mr. Hubbard said he supposed it was merely a question of the number of messages the company could obtain. The Western Union transmitted 40,000,000 messages a year. If the Baltimore and Ohio Company transmitted 10,000,000 it would cost two or three times as much per message.

Mr. Garrett thought that the case in a nut-shell was that the Western Union Company had something over $7,000,000 of net money to pay on watered stock, besides its cable guarantees. Mr. Gould had laid two cables, costing $6,000,000, and the Western Union had leased them, guaranteeing 5 per cent on a capital of $14,000,000. With the opening of the Baltimore and Ohio lines two new cables would be opened at a cost of less than $6,000,000.

Senator Hill said that when the Baltimore and Ohio lines reached a certain limit and became threatening, the Western Union would put down the rates to competing points, raising them to other points where competition did not exist. What would the result be? The company would say to the Baltimore and Ohio, You cannot operate your lines profitably; we will absorb your lines as we have absorbed those of fifty or sixty other companies. What assurance could be given to the members of the committee that the Baltimore and Ohio would not meet with the same fate.

Mr. Garrett said he might surprise the committee by telling it that the Baltimore and Ohio Company had already leased between New-York and Chicago enough wires at a sufficient rental to pay the interest on the entire amount it was proposed to expend, so that at any rate it could live. The company had leased six wires between New-York and Chicago at an average rental of $10,000, making $114,000 per annum, or 4 per cent on $3,000,000.

Mr. Cowan said that the condition of the telegraph business furnished an answer to the question of the chairman. There was more business done in the city of Chicago than in the entire Dominion of Canada. When the centres were reached the ground where three-fourths of the Western Union business was done would be covered. How could that company reduce its rates upon that business and make itself whole by increasing on the remainder?

Mr. Garrett said that if the Government saw fit to enter into an arrangement with the Baltimore and Ohio Company, the latter would be prepared to guarantee the completion of its lines between the points already referred to quicker than the Government could build and to limit its rates.

THE ARREST OF AN AMERICAN IN RUSSIA.

CORRESPONDENCE IN REGARD TO THE PRISONER'S RELEASE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The Secretary of State transmitted to the House to-day copies of the correspondence on file in the State Department in relation to the arrest at Lodz, in Russian Poland, of Reinhart Wagner, a citizen of the United States. The correspondence shows that on February 9, 1883, the State Department was informed through C. B. Mitchell, of New-York, of the complaint made by Wagner that on returning from the United States to his native country he had been arrested, his passports seized, and that he was then under police surveillance; and that on February 21, the Secretary of State wrote Minister Hunt, and directed him to inquire into the merits of the case. Minister Hunt did, and was informed by Governor Petrokow that Wagner and his mother were permanent inhabitants of the town of Lodz, that Wagner was liable to military service which had not been performed, as he had evaded the conscription by leaving the country for he United States; that he at that time was a Russ